

**From:** Brian Dellert  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 5:18pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

My name is Brian R. Dellert. I live in Prior Lake, MN. I am an independent software developer.

I am opposed to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust trial.

I worked at Microsoft during 1997 and 1998 as a contractor on the help system. During that time, the help system was changed in a way that would cause a previously working application to crash when it attempted to look up a keyword in the index. In fact, following Microsoft's own published documentation on this feature would cause your application to crash.

This change was made for the Microsoft Office team in order to allow support for their famous paper-clip. The "advantage" of this change was kept completely internal in undocumented API calls. As for the disadvantage (the crash), internal teams were given support to work around the crash. External companies were left with no support, no information, no accurate documentation, and a help system that did not work as advertised.

The settlement does nothing to prevent this type of anti-competitive behavior. The teams responsible for the products that go into Microsoft Windows will continue to give preferential treatment to Microsoft's applications division, even if it causes applications written by its competitors to quit working. The most recent example was Apple's QuickTime, which was disabled by an upgrade to Microsoft's now dominant web browser, Internet Explorer (also known as "IE").

To quote a CNet article on the problem:

Brad Mathis, a network security engineer from Evansville, Ind., blamed the problem on Microsoft.

"Being a security-conscious person, I try to stay updated with the latest service packs," he wrote. "Unfortunately, SP2 for IE 5.5 was a service pack with a hidden agenda. It may have had a security fix or two in it, but was also designed to remove non-Microsoft product compatibility."

<http://news.com.com/2100-1023-271653.html?legacy=cnet&tag=dd.ne.dht.nl-sty.0>

Note that "SP2 for IE 5.5" refers to "Service Pack 2 for Internet Explorer 5.5".

QuickTime directly competes with Microsoft's media player.

The proposed settlement would be completely ineffective in preventing the type of anti-competitive behavior which Microsoft uses to extend its Windows monopoly into new areas.

I ask you to reject the settlement.